

October 1, 2002

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Person

FROM: Isaac Bryant, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

SUBJECT: Title I No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

This memo is to update you on certain key provisions of the Title I requirements under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and after some preliminary guidance on how to meet them.

Planning for Title I Accountability

This is a year of transition for the Title I accountability system. The current Title I accountability system was initially developed under the 1994 Improving America's Schools Act (IASA); now we are changing to the new No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) system. The spring 2002 assessment results will be used for two purposes:

- Close out the old system; and
- Set benchmarks for the new system.

For close out of the old system, the only schools that will be reviewed for adequate yearly progress (AYP) are those that were identified as schools in need of improvement last year (also referred to as Category I schools in New Jersey).

The New Jersey Department of Education will also review this same set of data to establish the starting point around which performance benchmarks will be set as the measure of adequate yearly progress (AYP) in conformance with new federal guidelines. As soon as starting points for each content area and each test grade are established, these will be posted on the New Jersey Department of Education website. Once a starting point is established the state performance objectives, that will be applied to all schools and subgroups of students across the state, will be set incrementally. Every three years the adequate yearly progress (AYP) standards will be raised, directed to meeting the 100% proficient goal by 2014.

Parents Right to Know

The new Title I legislation under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) emphasizes the importance of having highly qualified teachers on staff. In New Jersey we have established a comprehensive teacher certification program that assures highly qualified teachers. Currently there are very limited exceptions to this, but the following exceptions may exist:

- Teachers hired on emergency certificate in three identified areas of teacher shortage, bilingual, English as second language (ESL) or special education; and
- Substitutes who do not hold full teacher certification.

Title I has built in key provisions to empower parents of children enrolled in Title I schools by providing them with more information about their children's schools, as well as options for educational services. Two key provisions in this area are:

- The need to inform parents about their right to request information regarding the qualifications of their child's teacher; and
- The need to inform parents if their child is being instructed for four or more weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified".

To assist you in meeting this new requirement the department has prepared a model letter that you can use. Feel free to modify or change it to meet your purposes as appropriate.

Nevertheless, if you have assigned staff who fit into either of the two categories noted above, and they have been taught by these staff for four or more consecutive weeks, you must notify the parents of the children enrolled in these classes.

IB/LDC/gc:No Child Left Behind
Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
William Librera
Dwight Pfennig
Gloria Hancock
Assistant Commissioners
Jay Doolan
Brian Robinson
Linda Dold-Collins
Joan Brady
Title I Coordinators

DRAFT

October 1, 2002

Dear Parent:

Educational research reinforces what we all know, good teachers make a positive difference. Quality teachers are those that have a strong knowledge base to teach in their assigned subject area (s) and training and preparation in teaching or pedagogy. In New Jersey, all teachers must demonstrate that they have this knowledge and training in order to be fully certified teachers.

Nevertheless, there are some circumstances under which it is difficult to fill a teaching position with fully and appropriately certified teachers. This school year, _____ School has placed (a teacher/substitute) who does not hold full and appropriate teacher certification for his/her assigned position. This placement was made because _____.

If you have any questions or want to talk to me about this placement, please feel free to call at _____.

Sincerely,

c: